



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of:

IURA, Tadashi et al.

Serial No.: 09/786,110

Filed: July 24, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3637

Examiner: John P. Fitzgerald

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5116

For: SUPPORTIVE DEVICE FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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June 30, 2003

GROUP 3600

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of January 28, 2003, requiring election among various species of the subject invention under the provisions of 35 USC § 121.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that claim 1 was generic to a number of species of the invention as disclosed in the specification. It was therefore required that applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted in the event the generic claim was not found to be allowable. Specifically, two species of the invention were identified, that is, Species I - Figs. 1-16 (claims 1-5) and Species II - Figs. 17-35 (claims 6-16). It was further required that applicants state the claims which read on the elected species.

Applicants hereby elect Species I - Figs. 1-16 for prosecution on the merits in the event the generic claim is not found to be allowable. From a review of the specification and

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claims, it would appear that the claims 1-5 read on the species shown in Figures 1-16. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected species.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2395, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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